CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-3085
Lutherville African American Survey District
Baltimore County, MD
1870s-1950s

The Lutherville African American Survey District is located in the Eighth District of Baltimore County. Lutherville was a planned village developed by the ministers of the Lutheran Church. In 1868, Lutherville became the first incorporated town in Baltimore County. Edgewood United Methodist Church built their first church in 1870. The two-room schoolhouse on School Lane, 'Colored School number 24,' opened in 1909. The 1960 census records 250 African Americans residing in Lutherville. A total of fifty five households accommodated these residents. The National Register Historic District boundaries for Lutherville include the Edgewood U.M. Church and Rectory as well as the five dwellings along Railroad Avenue.

A total of forty-eight buildings are included in the survey district with five as non-contributing dating from 1870s to the 1950s. The African American housing stock exhibited in Lutherville is dominated by vernacular dwellings lacking stylistic treatments common throughout the Lutherville Historic District. Styles, however modest, and forms exhibited in the Lutherville survey district include bungalows, Gothic Revival, as well as side-gable and front-gable roof dwellings. The historic residential fabric is predominantly two-stories in height. One multiple-family dwelling stands within the district consumed by single-family houses. Each building within the survey district is constructed of wood frame. The figurative and physical monument of the African American community in Lutherville is the Edgewood Methodist Episcopal Church (BA-300). This large wood-frame church faces south and is detailed in a Gothic Revival style. Built circa 1909, the Lutherville School, School number 24, (BA-2565) on School Lane is one of the earliest African American two-room schoolhouse remaining in Baltimore County.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3085

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Lutherville African American Survey District
other	

2. Location

street and number	Bellona Ave., Railroad Ave., Lincoln Ave.,	___ not for publication
city, town	Lutherville	___ vicinity
county	Baltimore County	

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Multiple Ownership		
street and number		telephone	Not Available
city, town	state	zip code	

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	tax map 60
city, town	Towson	liber	folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- X Contributing Resource in National Register District
- ___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- ___ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ___ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- ___ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- ___ Other

6. Classification

Category
- ___ district
- X building(s)
- ___ structure
- ___ site
- ___ object

Ownership
- ___ public
- X private
- ___ both

Current Function
- ___ agriculture
- ___ commerce/trade
- ___ defense
- X domestic
- ___ education
- ___ funerary
- ___ government
- ___ health care
- ___ industry
- ___ landscape
- ___ recreation/culture
- X religion
- ___ social
- ___ transportation
- ___ work in progress
- ___ unknown
- ___ vacant/not in use
- ___ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
43	5	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
43	5	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

3

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3085

Condition

___ excellent	___ deteriorated
_X_ good	___ ruins
_X_ fair	___ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Lutherville African American Survey District is located within the town of Lutherville north of the Baltimore Beltway. Separated into two distinct clusters the Lutherville survey district is an entirely residential community augmented with a schoolhouse and a church. The two clusters are situated on the outskirts of the town's historic center separated by the Conrail Commuter Train and two north south streets. The northernmost boundary of each area is Seminary Avenue. A total of forty-eight buildings are included in the survey district. Only five are non-contributing due to their construction date in the last half of the 20th century.

The African American housing stock exhibited in Lutherville is dominated by vernacular dwellings lacking stylistic treatments common throughout the Lutherville Historic District. Common in other communities, a distinct stylistic separation between white and black residential neighborhoods is visible in communities such as the Bond Avenue in Reisterstown and Schwartz Avenue adjacent to the historic Stoneliegh neighborhood. Styles, however modest, and forms exhibited in the Lutherville survey district include bungalows, Gothic Revival, as well as side-gable and front-gable roof dwellings. The historic residential fabric is predominantly two-stories in height. One multiple-family dwelling stands within the district entirely consumed by single-family houses. Each building within the survey district is constructed of wood frame, a common practice in historic African American neighborhoods in Baltimore County. Within both the east and west cluster of the survey district the houses are sited close to one another and to the road. Most of the properties lack any side yards, however, many are surrounded with several trees, shrubs, foundation plantings, and few have driveways (either gravel or dirt). The properties included in the western neighborhood are situated on level grassy lots whereas the eastern neighborhood is sited on a sloping landscape producing excellent viewscapes. The roads are paved in both areas however neither have sidewalks.

The western group of African American buildings includes Railroad Avenue, School Lane, and Seminary Avenue. The eastern group of buildings within the Lutherville African American survey district includes a block along Bellona Avenue and the north side of Lincoln Avenue. Approximately 23 contributing buildings are within this neighborhood.

This residential area is augmented with a two-room school built in 1909 for the African American residents. Each of the houses along Seminary Avenue, Railroad Avenue, and School Lane are lined close together with very small side yards, if any. The east side of School Lane consists of empty lots, and the east side of Railroad Avenue is the Conrail Commuter Train. Railroad Avenue dead ends into a large commercial complex. One building on the east side of School Lane appears to have been recently demolished.

The five houses along Railroad Avenue are similar in size and form to one another. Each is two-stories high, single-pile plan, either two or three bays wide, capped with a side-gable roof, above which is one or two center-interior brick chimneys. The roofs are covered with asphalt shingles and each house stands on a random-rubble stone foundation. The dwellings are either clad with asbestos shingles, wood shingles, or aluminum siding. Each house includes features such as 6/6 wood-sash windows, wood soffit, single-leaf entry, overhanging eaves, and shed-roof porches and porticos. Lined adjacent to one another, none of these houses have driveways associated with them.

The side-gable roof house form previously described is common throughout the Lutherville African American survey district. Examples are exhibited at 1432 Bellona Avenue the Church Rectory (BA-342), 1426 through 1434 Railroad Avenue. One variation to the form is the addition of a half-story with a steep center cross gable on the facade. The center gables are pierced with small double-hung windows. Examples of this form are located at 617 and 619 Seminary Avenue.

Two circa 1910 houses at the southern end of School Lane are two-stories high, two-bays wide, and are covered with a front-gable roof. Both have center-interior brick chimneys rising above their asphalt-shingle roofs. One house retains the original 2/2 wood-

sash windows whereas the second has 1/1 replacement windows. Both dwellings are augmented with shed-roof porches. Another example of this front-gable-roof form is located at 1421 Bellona Avenue.

One of the earliest houses in the community is located at 1419 Bellona Avenue. This house stands on a random-rubble stone foundation, and rises one-and-a-half stories in height. The first story on the façade measures five bays wide with two single-leaf entries. The house is capped with a cross-gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A two-story addition has been added to the north elevation of the original block. Rising above the roof is one center-interior corbelled brick chimney. Coving four bays is a one-story shed-roof porch supported with Tuscan columns. The dwelling is re-clad and the original windows and doors have been replaced.

Two multiple-family dwellings in the Lutherville survey district are sited at 200 and 202 Lincoln Avenue. Both are two stories high, rest on random-rubble stone foundations, and have two separate entries on the façade. The house at 200 Lincoln Avenue features a sloping roof and 202 Lincoln Avenue is covered with a front-gable roof. The latter is four bays wide and interestingly features two interior brick chimneys.

One bungalow dwelling, 517 Seminary Avenue, is the only one-story dwelling amongst the western area in the Lutherville survey district. Constructed circa 1920, this bungalow is capped with a gable-on-hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Across the full width of the façade is a half-hipped roof porch supported with Tuscan columns. The foundation was not visible at the time of the survey.

The figurative and physical monument of the African American community in Lutherville is the Edgewood Methodist Episcopal Church (BA-300). Sited on a slight hill, this large wood-frame church faces south and is detailed in a Gothic Revival style. Two stories high, this church features a rectangular footprint augmented with a bell-tower on the east elevation. Raised on an ashlar stone foundation, the main block is covered with a front-gable roof, measures three bays across, and is re-clad with asbestos shingles. Entry into the nave is through the double-leaf entrance in the bell-tower. Entry into the first story (basement) is through a centered single-leaf door on the façade. Piercing the first story are two 2/2 wood-sash windows. The prevalent detail of the main block is the center triple lancet window on the façade. Each of the three pointed arch windows contains a 2/2 stained-glass wood-sash window. Flanking this large centerpiece are two 2/2 pointed-arch windows with stained glass. Illuminating the entrance in the bell-tower is a 6-light lancet transom with stained glass. Detailed with wood-louvered pointed-arch openings, the bell-tower is topped with a pyramidal roof and a pinacle and features posts at the corners mimicking the roof shape and details. Other features of the Edgewood M.E. Church include the overhanging eaves, exposed roof rafters, and molded window surrounds. The cornerstone reads Edgewood M.E. Church, Built 1870, Rebuilt 1908.

Built circa 1909, the Lutherville School, School number 24, (BA-2565) on School Lane is one of the earliest African American two-room schoolhouse remaining in Baltimore County. The earliest one-room African American schoolhouse appears to be the Piney Grove school built circa 1850 (BA-1177). School number 24 is constructed of wood-frame and is clad with weatherboard siding. Raised on a random-rubble stone foundation this building features a projecting cross-gable plan. The three-bay-wide projecting gable contains the center entry flanked by two 4/4 wood-sash widows on the ends. The double-leaf replacement doors are illuminated with a two-light transom. The rear section is pierced with two 4/4 wood-sash windows and features two-exterior-end corbelled brick chimneys. The roof is re-clad with asphalt shingles and features slightly overhanging eaves.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-3085

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
___ 1600-1699	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ health/medicine	___ performing arts
___ 1700-1799	___ archeology	___ education	___ industry	___ philospohy
X 1800-1899	X architecture	___ engineering	___ invention	___ politics/government
X 1900-1999	___ art	___ entertainment/	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 2000-	___ commerce	recreation	___ law	___ science
	___ communications	X ethnic heritage	___ literature	___ social history
	X community planning	___ exploration/	___ maritime industry	___ transportation
	___ conservation	settlement	___ military	___ other:

Specific dates	1870-1950 ca	**Architect/Builder**	Unknown
Construction dates	1870 ca., 1909		

Evaluation for:

X National Register ___ Maryland Register X not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Lutherville African American Survey District is located in the Eighth District of Baltimore County. The Eighth District is bounded on the north by the Fifth and Seventh Districts, on the east by the Ninth and Tenth, on the south by the Ninth and Third, and on the west by the Fourth and Fifth Districts. It is the third largest district of the county covering over 62 square miles. In 1881, it had a population of approximately 6000, which was down over a thousand from a decade prior. During this period, its primary source of income was mining for iron ore, marble, and limestone. It also maintained numerous mills grist and saw mills in addition to paper factories.(1)

The Sidney Atlas from 1850 depicts the Susquehanna Railroad to the east of Towsontown. The area now considered Lutherville originally consisted of York Road and Bellona Avenue in 1850. York Road originated in Towsontown and traveled northeast through Baltimore County. Bellona Avenue began in Govanstown a small community south of Towsontown. Govanstown is now a neighborhood embraced by Baltimore City. Above Lutherville the railroad parallels York Road, which extends from the center of Towsontown to the northwest. Shown on the 1850 atlas are four residences depicted north of Bellona Avenue in the Lutherville area. The owners of these properties are Miss Ford, Oriscum, J. Burton, and J. Price.(2)

Lutherville was a planned village developed by the ministers of the Lutheran Church. The founders of the Lutheran Church, including Reverend Dr. Morris, purchased the Brice Estate located just west of the Susquehanna Railroad and developed it into lots to be sold. The proceeds made from the real estate went towards the construction of the female seminary. Opening in 1854, the seminary's existence in Lutherville became an attraction for the area as a wealthy suburban village. In 1868, Lutherville became the first incorporated town in Baltimore County.(3)

By 1877, according to the Hopkins Atlas Lutherville has developed as a commercial and residential center. It received the name Lutherville and approximately twelve streets were developed and platted by this time. Approximately fifty buildings are depicted on the 1877 atlas within the village of Lutherville. One institution exhibited on the 1877 atlas is the female seminary located above Lincoln Avenue on what is now called Seminary Avenue.(4)

Scharf, the author of History of Baltimore City and County, wrote in 1881 the population of Lutherville totaled 382 inhabitants.(5) This small town grew nearly fifty percent in the next sixteen years reaching a total of 700 residents. One of the local residents at this time, Adams, owned his own business and was able to purchase homes for each of his children, three of which still stand on Railroad Avenue.

Edgewood United Methodist Church built their first church in 1870 on land that was donated by George I. Richardson. The piece of property he donated was on the edge of a wooded area for which became the name of the church, Edgeweood. Destroyed in the late 19th century, the church was rebuilt in the late Gothic Revival style and opened in 1908.(6)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Lutherville African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet
Number 8 Page 1

The two-room schoolhouse on School Lane, School number 24 (BA-2565), was built in 1908 and opened in 1909. Prior to the construction of this school building, classes were held in a rented room in the Lutherville Colored Odd Fellows Hall on Bellona Avenue. Students that attended the Lutherville School came from many of the surrounding towns including Cockeysville, Beaver Dam, Texas, Riderwood, Ruxton, Brightside, and Bare Hills. (7) Grades one through three were in one room and four through seven in the larger room. Students who wished to continue their education past the seventh grade had to attend high school in Baltimore City, as there were not any African American high schools in Baltimore County until 1939. School number 24 was closed in early 1950's due to desegregation. Afterwards, the African American children of Lutherville attended Carver School in Towson.(8) In 1994, Arthur and Helen Chapman purchased the property and converted it into a museum. (9).

According to the 1915 Bromley Atlas all development of Lutherville had occurred north of Bellona Avenue to the edge of the Susquehanna Railroad. Much of the area directly south of Bellona Avenue still functioned as large and small farms. West of Francke Avenue south of Morris Avenue is Dr. Morris's Estate. East of Francke Avenue and along Morris Avenue on the north side is the H. Davis House. The house and a large stable stand on a large lot bounded to the east by Lutherville Road, to the south is Morris Avenue, to the west is the property of J.C. Beck. North of the Davis property are six lots; three lots contain the Mrs. J.G. Cockey Estate, one lot is owned by I. Fritz, and one lot has the F. Whitcraft House. The sixth lot is the corner lot bounded by Lutherville Road, Division Avenue, and Melangthon Avenue. On this property is the public school house. By 1915, the female seminary on Seminary Avenue was renamed as the Maryland College For Women.(10)

The 1960 census records 250 African Americans residing in Lutherville. A total of fifty five households accommodated these residents. Only 35 to 40 percent of the households were owned by their African American residents. A high ninety percent of the dwellings were substandard quality. The rental properties lived in by the African American residents were rented for approximately 22 to 40 dollars a month.(11)

The National Register Historic District boundaries for Lutherville include the Edgewood U.M. Church and Rectory as well as the five dwellings along Railroad Avenue.(12) Today, the area, upper Bellona, where Edgewood U.M. Church is located is referred to as Up on the Hill. Lower Bellona, which includes Lincoln Avenue, is termed Down the Back Road. The western section of this survey district, particularly Railroad Avenue, is termed as Cross the Tracks.

ENDNOTES

1. Thomas J. Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men, (Philadelphia, Louis H. Everts: 1881, Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.) p. 876.
2. J.C. Sidney, Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).
3. Scharf, p. 877 and Brooks, p. 287-288.
4. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).
5. Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, A History of Baltimore County (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), p. 288.
6. Louis S. Diggs, Since the Beginning: African American Communities in Towson. Towson: 2000.
7. Diggs, p. 86.
8. Diggs, p. 82.
9. Diggs, p. 86.

10. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).
11. Diggs, p. 81.
12. National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form for Lutherville Historic District (November 9, 1972).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-3085

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	16.8 acres		
Acreage of historical setting	unknown		
Quadrangle name	Towson & Cockeysville	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Lutherville African American Survey District is located in Lutherville in the Eighth District of Baltimore County. The properties within the survey district have been associated with the tax map 60 since their construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian		
organization	E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.	date	3/1/03
street and number	1121 Fifth Street, NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state DC	zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3085

Name Lutherville African American Survey District
Continuation Sheet
Number 9 Page 1

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

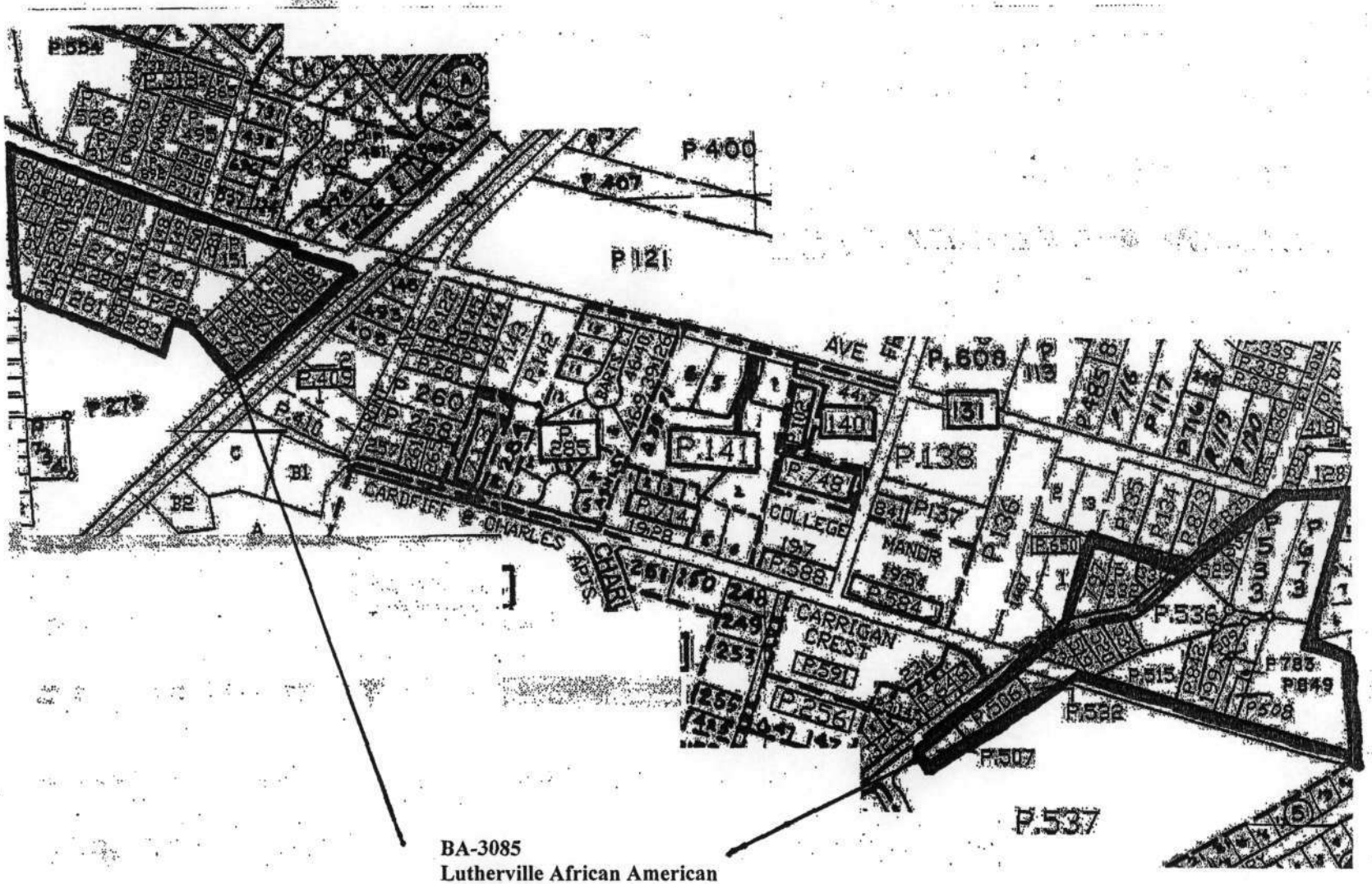
Diggs, Louis S. Since the Beginning: African American Communities in Towson. Towson: 2000.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

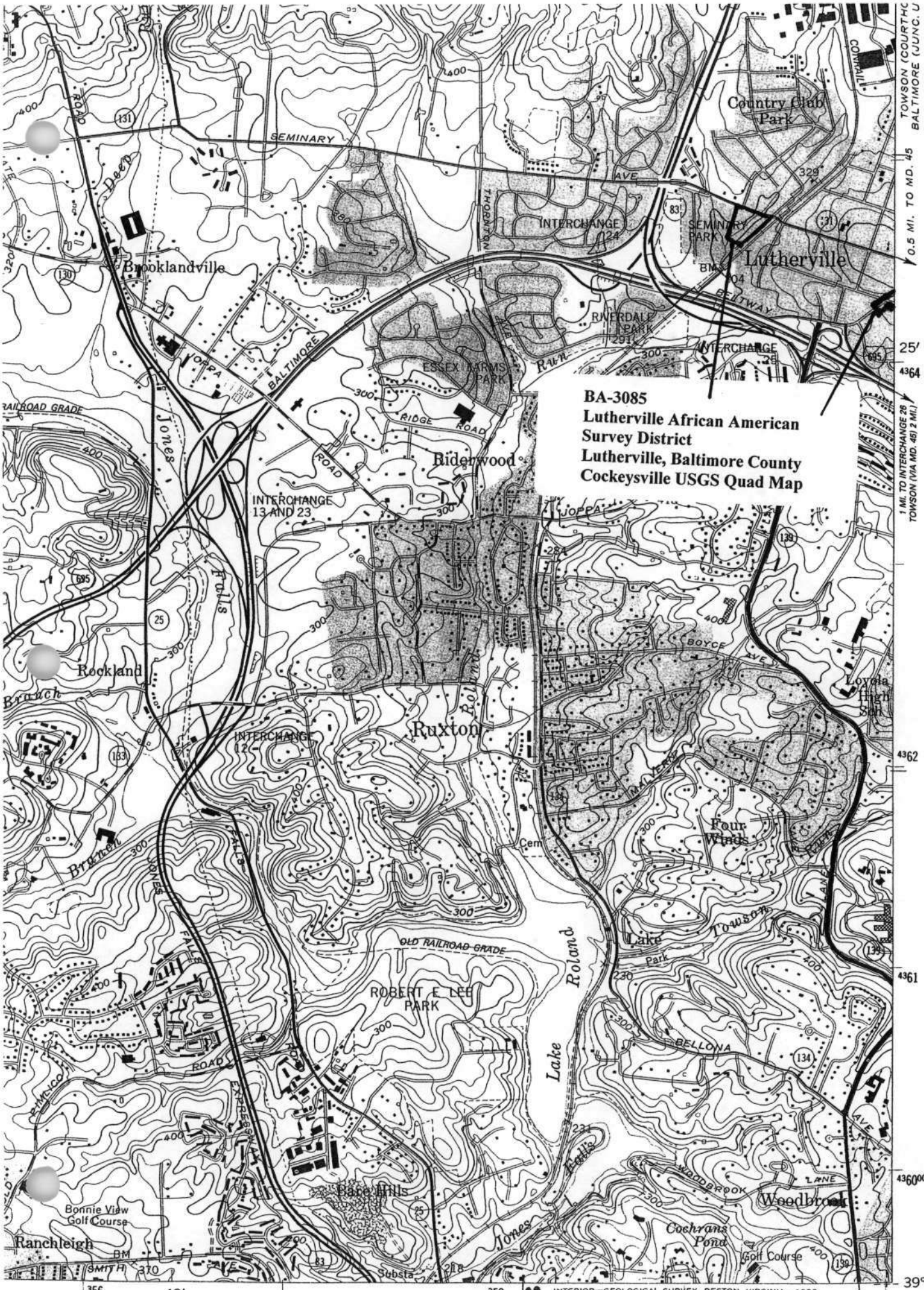
Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census of 1930, Baltimore County, Maryland. National Archives.



BA-3085
Lutherville African American
Survey District
Lutherville, Baltimore County
Baltimore County Base Map


BA-3085
Lutherville African American
Survey District
Lutherville, Baltimore County
Cockeysville USGS Quad Map
Country Club Park
Lutherville
Brooklandville
Riderwood
Rockland
Ruxton
Four Winds
Lake Roland
Woodbrook
Bare Hills
Ranchleigh
Bonnie View Golf Course
Cochrans Pond
Golf Course
Loyola High Sch
ROBERT E LEE PARK
ESSEX FARMS PARK
RIVERDALE PARK
SEMINARY PARK
INTERCHANGE 24
INTERCHANGE 25
INTERCHANGE 13 AND 23
INTERCHANGE 12
SEMINARY AVE
BELTWAY
BALTIMORE
JOPPA
RIDGE ROAD
BOYCE AVE
BELLONA
WOODBROOK LANE
OLD RAILROAD GRADE
RAILROAD GRADE
Jones Falls
Branch
Deep
Run
Roland
Towson
Lake
Park
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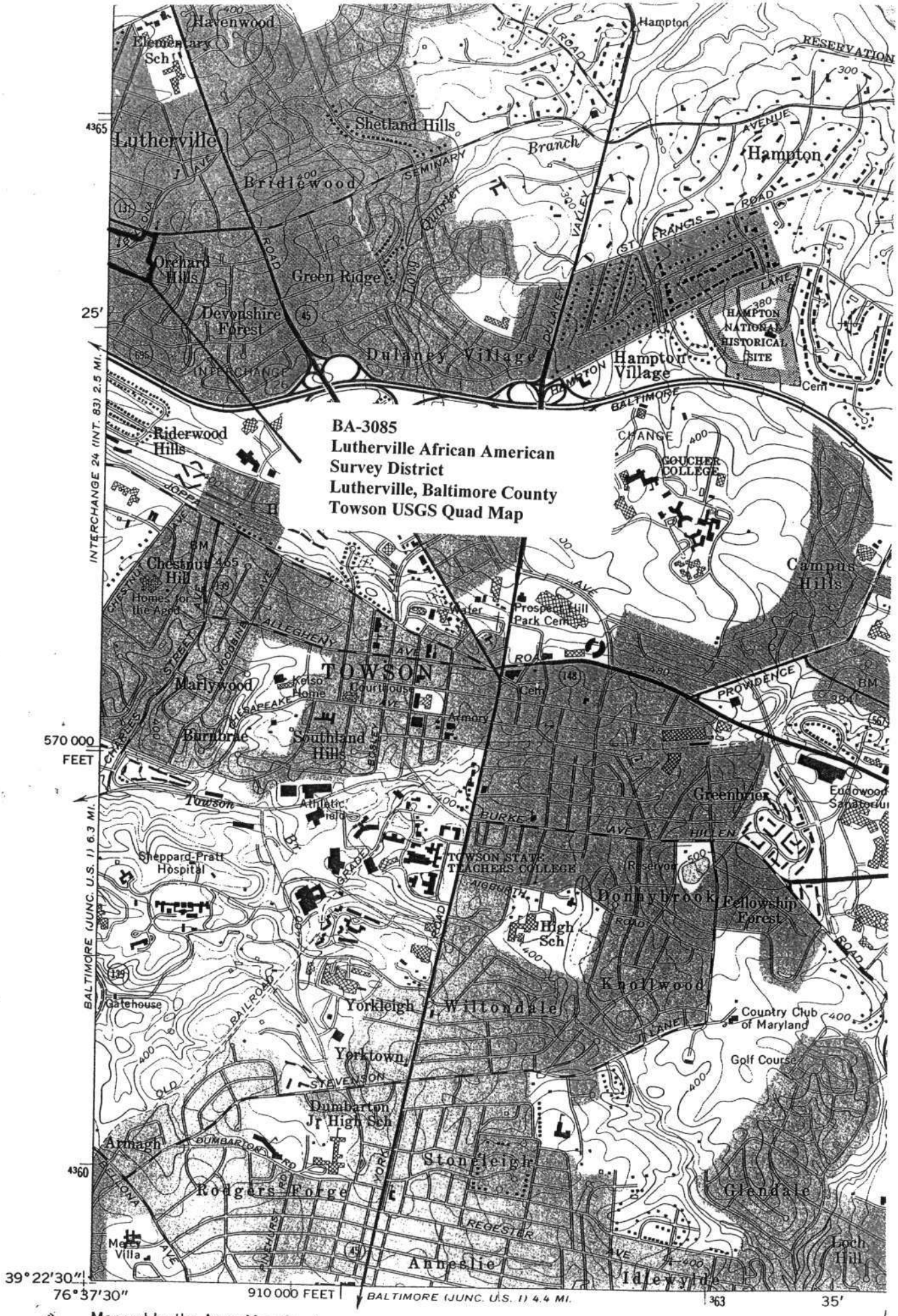
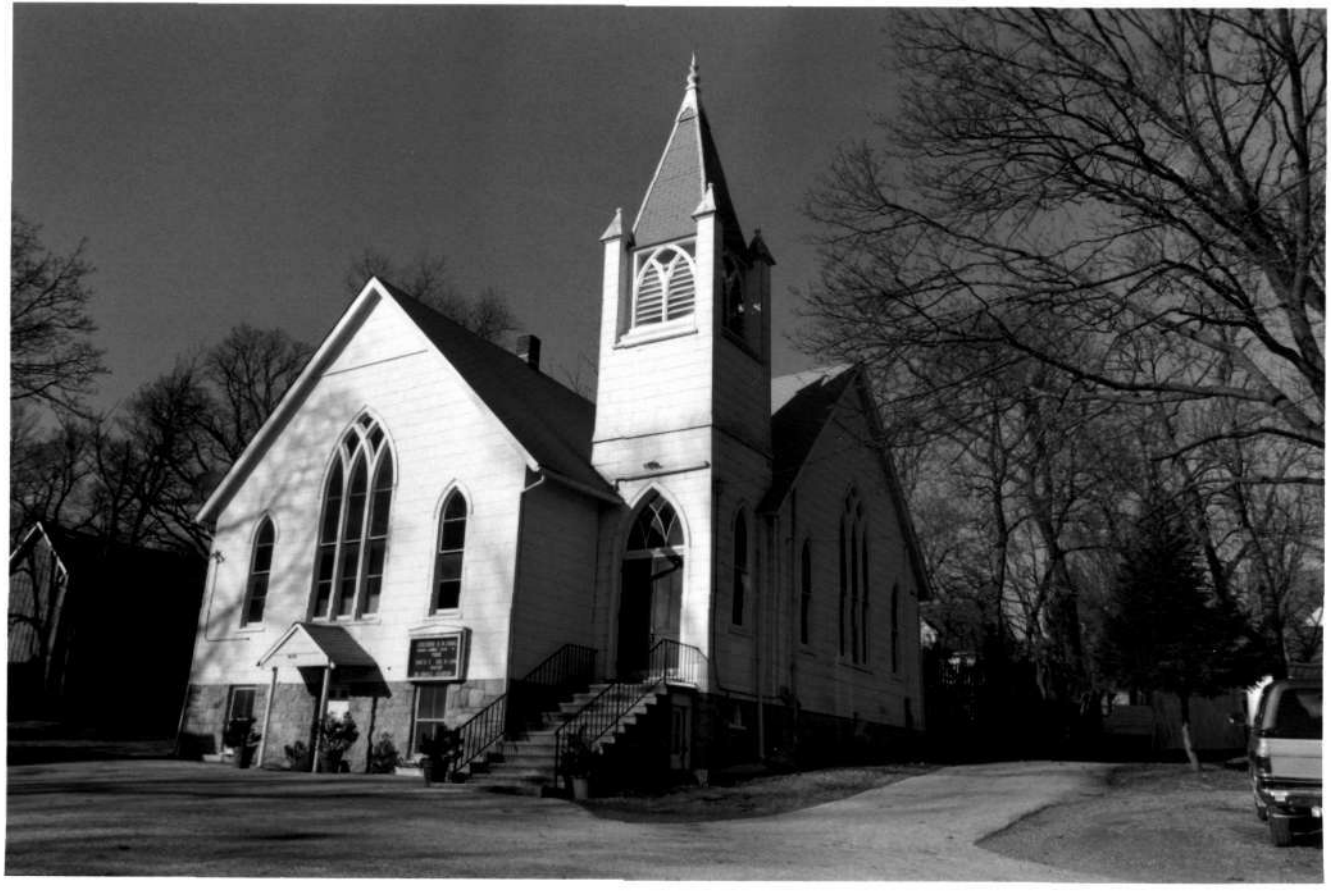


Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland



BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRALERIES
2/2003
MD SHPO
Edgewood M.E. CHURCH, SE CORNER
1 of 13

BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
2/2003
MD SHPO
Edgewood Rectory, 1432 Bellona Avenue, view looking NW
2 of 13

Domenic Petrucci
Contractor, Inc.
410-562-3944

BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
2/2003
MD SHPD

132 and 128 LINCOLN AVENUE, VIEW LOOKING NE

3 of 13

BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
2/2003
MD SHPO
200 and 202 LINCOLN AVENUE, view looking NE
4 of 13

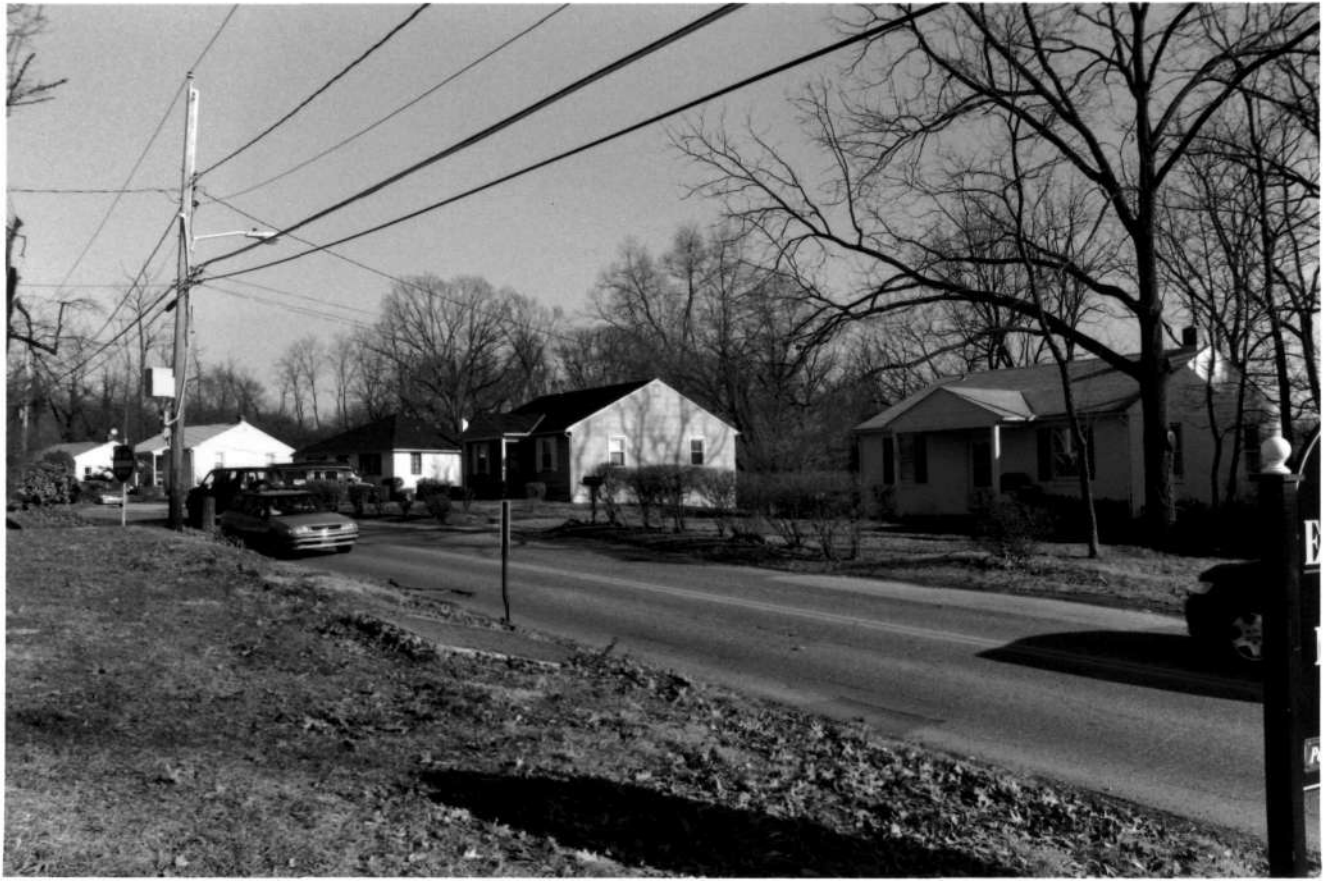
STOP

BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE / COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
2/2003
MD SHPO

1423, 1421, and 1419 BELLONA AVENUE, view looking SE
5 of 13

1427

BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
2/2003
MD SHPO
1420-1422 Bellona Avenue, view looking SW
6 of 13



BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
2/2003
MD SHPO
1431 - 1435 BELLONA AVENUE, VIEW LOOKING NE

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BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
2/2003
MD SHPO
SCHOOL #24, 1426 School Lane, SE Elevation
2 of 13

BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRALERIES
2/2003
MD SHPO
1424 and 1420 School Lane, view looking SW
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BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
2/2003
MD SHPO
SEMINARY AVENUE, VIEW LOOKING SE
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BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
2/2003
MD SHPO
615-621 W. Seminary Avenue, view looking South
11 of 13

BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
2/2003
MD SHPO

1426-1434 Railroad Avenue, View looking NORTH
12 of 13

SPEED
LIMIT
25

BA-3085
LUTHERVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRALERIES
2/2003
MD SHPO
1426-1431 Railroad Avenue, view looking Southwest
13 of 13